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in the news

INSIDE

Professor Dihoff, a linguist at Boston University, uses rather profound and innovative methods for teaching African languages.

p3

The varsity basketball team defeated Babson in the season opener Tuesday in a game that went down to the last second, 55-54, before a sizeable and spirited crowd.

p8

WEATHER

A beautiful day today under sunny skies and light northwesterly winds. Cool, however, with highs 40-43. For tonight, clear to partly cloudy with lows 30-34. For Saturday, partly cloudy and pleasant with highs in the middle 40's. Lows Saturday night in the low to mid 30's. Increasing clouds by Sunday with a chance of rain or snow by Sunday night or Monday morning. Chance of precipitation 10% today, 30% tonight and Saturday, 50% Sunday.

CAMPUS

The Class of '81 Ring Committee will provide a poster in Lobby 7 today on which class members are encouraged to express their preferences regarding the ring. Signatures are being collected in an effort to determine class opinion regarding the alternatives.

EXCERPTS

LONGMEADOW — Police in this small western Massachusetts town don't know it yet, but they're going to get some defensive driving lessons after putting \$20,000 worth of dents in their police cruisers.

"Some police officers think they're the greatest drivers in the world, but they're not," says Police Chief Donald Abraham, who scheduled the lessons. "They're the worst."

When asked about the reaction of his officers to taking the course, Abraham said, "They don't know about it yet."

Earlier this week Abraham reported to the Board of Selectmen an accident he called "a foolish mistake." Two new police cars collided with each other while answering a house call.

UPI, Boston Globe

ERRATA

The comic strip *Paul Hubbard* in the last issue was run incorrectly. The first two panels were meant to be printed last, and the second two first.

Suffolk U students hold protest

By Jordana Hollander

Secretary of the Institute Vincent A. Fulmer is currently under fire for his position on student rights at Suffolk University, where he serves as Chairman of the Board of Trustees.

Fulmer, formerly a Vice-President of the Institute, has been heavily attacked by student leaders at Suffolk University for his refusal to allow Student Government Association (SGA) President Thomas Elias to appear before the Board at its November meeting.

Students at the University are highly incensed by their Trustees meeting behind closed doors. At the successful rally held in Temple Mall on November 3 many students carried signs with slogans like "No Tuition Without Representation," "Unite to Fight," and, on a more personal note, "Fulmer is a fascist."

There are two main issues that Suffolk students are concerned with. One is the allocation of



Vincent A. Fulmer

space to student activities and athletics. Students speaking at the rally reminded the crowd of 600 that much of the lounge space promised by the administration has failed to materialize. According to SGA Vice President William Sutherland, many students feel that the University should have better athletic

facilities, noting that Suffolk is the only college in the area without a gym.

The second question students demanded a part in is the granting of scholarships to student leaders. The administration cut off the automatic service scholarships, and announced their decision nine months later. At the rally Senior Class Vice President Gerard Lamb stated that students demand to have some input into issues such as these that affect them directly.

Lamb also told students that the SGA had sent a letter to the Board of Trustees asking that students be allowed to present a proposal on the service scholarships at the next board meeting. While the request had the approval of some board members, like Paul Smith, Fulmer turned it down and referred the students to the College Committees, an indirect channel to the Board of Trustees at Suffolk.

Students at Suffolk view Fulmer's actions as part of a power play. An editorial in the *Suffolk Journal* called Fulmer "narrow minded and nothing but a deterrent to the students of Suffolk University."

The day after the rally about 200 Suffolk students marched through Boston to President Thomas Fulham's office. There, led by SGA officers, students demonstrated in front of Fulham's office. The Board meeting they had planned to picket was postponed by Fulmer.

Fulmer continued in this vein with a letter to SGA leaders in which he told students that "While street rallies can help to build student interest, they can also be counter-productive and damaging to the reputation of an institution." The letter also requested that students not demonstrate at the Trustee's meeting, calling such behavior "beneath the dignity and purpose of Suffolk University."

Brass Rat 1981: sticks or tree trunk



By Lenny Martin

Class of '81 Secretary/Treasurer Jenny Ford resigned on Wednesday from that class's Ring Committee in the aftermath of a heated committee meeting. Another committee member, class President Lori Ullman '81, commented, "I think this is rather irresponsible of Jenny to not follow through with her commitment to the committee and to the class."

In the controversial meeting, held Tuesday, the committee voted five to four in favor of changing the design on the ring from a beaver holding a twig to a beaver gnawing on a tree. The shift breaks a 52 year-old tradition.

Following some dissenting input from class members not on the Ring Committee, four committee members momentarily retired to a separate room and announced upon their return that the meeting was now closed. Explained Ford in reference to the majority's failure to keep the meeting open, "These people are stubborn." She charged that the committee never voted on whether the meeting would be open or closed. Ullman countered that nobody moved to have the meeting open.

Ullman felt that committee members voted for what they thought the class wanted. Yet she downplayed the design change, asserting that people won't notice the difference "because the rings will be so small."

Ford, on the other hand, voiced concern not only over the change itself but also over the way it was, as she put it, "railroaded through." She estimated that thirty out of forty sophomores she had surveyed opposed this change, due to either the supposed railroading or the breaking of tradition.

All but one of the twenty-five sophomores who attended the committee meeting, to spectate or provide external input, also opposed the change.

In criticizing the slim majority's refusal to compromise, Ford



argued, "It's a class ring, and it should be acceptable to the greatest percentage of the class." She stressed the uncertainty inherent in such a close vote of such a small sample of the class and pointed out the the committee went against the class's majority opinion as projected by a survey taken on a Lobby 7 poster.

Ullman blasted the poster, which she knew nothing about until she received in rapid succession many phone calls prompted by it. "I was disturbed at the use of my name and telephone number without my approval or

knowledge," Ullman said.

Ullman was also upset that the poster apparently encouraged sophomores to come to the committee meeting and give reasons for their opposition to the change. She indicated that committee was already aware of all the pros and cons and therefore wanted not reasons, but numbers. "The committee also decided beforehand that the final decision was going to rest with the committee," Ullman noted.

Ullman told *The Tech* Wednesday. (Please turn to page 3)

Asimov quite entertaining

By Stephanie Pollack

Isaac Asimov's October 20 lecture on "The Science Fiction Writer as Prophet" contained more humor than recent LSC lectures by comedians, and at the same time touched on many subjects important to MIT students and the technological world in general.

From the start, the audience was told that Asimov's topic was actually an excuse to talk about anything he wanted to, and that's exactly what he did.

Asimov began by discussing his prediction of the calculator in his *Foundation Trilogy*, and went on to cover slide rules, technophobes, the evolution of man, the future of the computer, and why he dislikes Trekkies.

The main part of the lecture,

however, dealt with the future of the computer with respect to the future of mankind. Asimov views the computer as the "great humanizing force of the coming decade," because it will liberate mankind from menial tasks. He envisaged a worldwide computerized library and a universal "working language" as ways computers could help unite the world and eliminate waste in science, a field which he sees as "drowning in its own wastes."

Much of what Asimov said went over quite well with the audience that almost filled Kresge. A statement about "faculty members and other superannuated has-beens" drew loud applause. Later in the lecture, Asimov asserted that, because of the advent of printing,

"you no longer have to memorize anything that you don't want to." When this drew hisses, Asimov added "I'm talking about a rational world."

Asimov concluded the lecture with a half hour question and answer period which was dominated by questions about computers and the future of space exploration. In the course of this session Asimov said that he felt both men and computers were programmed, but that "mankind's programming is so complicated that we haven't worked it out yet." Although not everyone present agreed with this and many of Asimov's other comments (the 6-3's must have loved him), no one could deny that the lecture was amusing and highly enjoyable.

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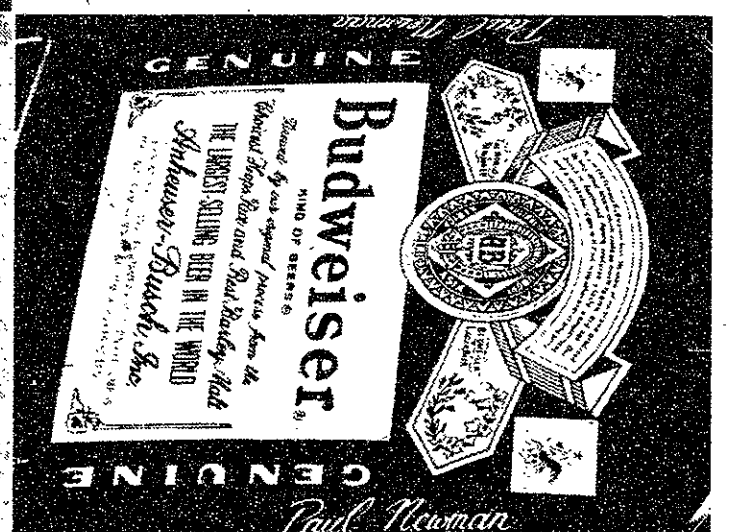
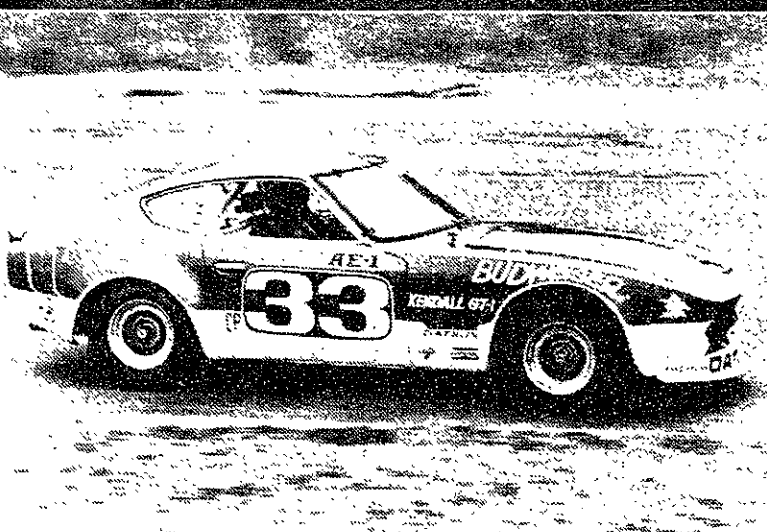
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BU linguist innovative

By Michael Taviss

Anyone who has ever attempted to learn a second language knows how tough the job is. Conjugations, declensions and other long-forgotten concepts tend to make the sentences and words degenerate into a mere jumble of sounds.

Now there is a method developed by Professor Ivan R. Dihoff of Boston University (BU) which takes these foreign mutterings and makes sense of them to the student. Dihoff doesn't bother to tell the students what they are saying. He shows them instead. He holds up a coin, for example, and speaks its name in the African language. "It's not a perfect method," he says. "For instance, when I held up a coffee cup, how do they know if I am talking about the cup or the coffee inside?"

Just as a child babbles for months, repeating over and over the simple phrases he has picked up from his parents, so do

Dihoff's students drill with words they hardly know. Finally, after hundreds of hours, a language arrives for both the young child and the student. "There comes a day when the student somehow 'knows' the language," Professor Dihoff says. "I don't know what happens, but when it does, it's very exciting."

"Just making the words flow from the mouth is the real problem in learning African languages," Dihoff says. "You can have a two-letter word in Yoruba that can mean four or five different things — all depending on tonation." When he hears his students start to babble a drill they heard in class, though, he knows that they have reached the mysterious moment in learning that even he doesn't understand.

Professor Dihoff's method attempts to duplicate the process of learning a first language. Rather than translate from English to the new language, he wants his stu-

dents to simply the new word for an object and skip the English altogether.

The best criteria for knowing whether the method is successful are the students themselves. Many of them have already learned a foreign language by traditional procedures and can compare the two methods. Boston University student Trina Wanigias says, "I like this way much better than the others. It sounds a bit confusing, but it really makes sense in the long run."

Dihoff works with BU's African Studies Center, and it is only natural for him to teach African languages. "There is a mystery to learning an African language," he says.

Such languages are not commonly taught in American universities. It was not until Dihoff started teaching Yoruba, Hausa, and Swahili at BU that students in the Boston area had the opportunity to learn any of these languages.

Police Blotter

(The Police Blotter is a report written by the Campus Patrol on crimes, incidents, and actions on the MIT campus each week.)

Students assaulted

In separate incidents last Friday night two MIT students were the victims of small gangs who jumped them without warning during apparent robbery attempts.

The first attack took place on the campus, near the entrance to the Tang Hall parking lot. The victim, a resident of Tang Hall, was walking along when suddenly three youths set upon him, striking him in the head with some hard object which knocked him out. He was discovered lying unconscious on the ground by a fellow Tang resident who arrived in time to spot the trio fleeing towards New House. MIT Officers arriving at the scene immediately transported the victim via Campus Police ambulance to the Mass. General Hospital for treatment. The assailants disappeared so fast it is believed that an accomplice was waiting in a car nearby to facilitate their escape.

In the second attack, a graduate student was accosted by three men near his fraternity house on Chestnut Street in Cambridge. The men demanded his money; when he told them (truthfully) that he had none, one grabbed him from behind while another punched him in the face, and the third man went through his pockets. Finding no valuables, the trio fled on foot, leaving the victim in need of medical atten-

tion. He was found by Cambridge Police Officers, who brought him to the MIT Infirmary for treatment.

Man with knife arrested

A man armed with a knife who was challenged by a student inside the NRSA building at 311 Memorial Drive was arrested and charged by MIT Officers last Wednesday after a brief chase. The suspect was found inside the NRSA locker room by a student who, together with another student, followed him out to the sidewalk and asked him what business he had in the locker room. At that, the man allegedly pulled out a pocket knife, waved it and yelled at them. He then fled towards Mass. Ave. The students flagged down a passing Campus Police cruiser and jumped in with the Officers. After a brief chase on the Harvard Bridge the officers captured the suspect. When arraigned Friday on a charge of Assault With a Dangerous Weapon, it was discovered that the defendant is wanted by two other police

departments for various charges.

Ford Stolen

A 1971 Ford Torino was stolen from the Sloan School parking lot sometime during the early evening Tuesday. The dark green car was discovered to be missing when the owner returned to the lot at 9:30pm.

notes

* Juniors are invited to apply for the Beinecke Memorial Scholarship program. The scholarship will be awarded for the senior year and two years of graduate school to a student who represents "superior standards of intellectual ability, scholastic achievement and personal promise." The award covers tuition and up to \$3,000 of education-related expenses. Although there are no restrictions regarding field of study, age, sex, race, creed, national origin or geographical origin, US citizens, needy students, and students who plan to attend graduate school at MIT are preferred. Applications are available at the Student Financial Aid Office, 5-119. The deadline is Dec. 15.

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Kresge Auditorium
Free Admission

Ring Committee split

(Continued from page 1)

day night that if "three or four hundred" dissenting signatures accumulated by Tuesday the tree will be blacked out in favor of the twigs.

Ford submitted sketches to *The Tech* of the two basic designs that were proposed for the ring. She said that the beaver with the twigs symbolized building, innovation, and engineering whereas the one with the beaver chewing the tree could represent the beginning of the MIT engineering students' careers with respect to the engineering profession, or it could possibly represent the destruction left behind by their work.

Ullman briefly examined the sketches submitted by Ford and stated that they were not the same as those used by the committee. Thinking the beaver, the ground

and the tree looked "a lot different" from those in the actual design, she termed the sketches "unfortunate." She was not, however, able to submit different sketches.

Ring committee members remaining after Ford's resignation were the five other officers of the Class of '81, Lori Ullman, Tom Chang, John Dellea, Jenny Kish, and Ann Keenan, and three members at large, Jon Colton, Glenn Katz, and Andy Ubel. The members at large were chosen by the officers from applicants for the positions.

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To answer questions regarding the MIT Corporation and the Younger Alumni Member election process.

Friday, December 1st
4pm, The Marlar Lounge 37-252.
Refreshments will be served.

Digital Hardware Engineers

Production Services Corp., an engineering consulting firm in Waltham, MA will recruit at MIT on Friday, December 8th. A small but rapidly growing company, we specialize in automatic testing and seek individuals with digital hardware knowledge for full time or part time employment.

We are composed mainly of MIT engineers and offer you an excellent opportunity to learn and grow. Contact Career Planning and Placement Office, Room 12-170. Call x3-4733 to sign up for an interview.

RECRUITING Friday, December 8th

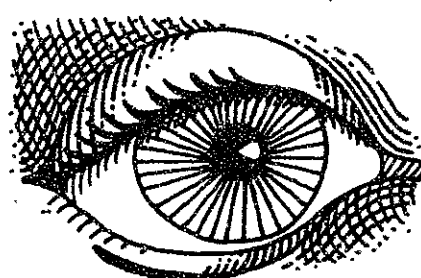
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Opinion

Reading and 'Riting and everything else

By Bob Wasserman

Is a Freshman English requirement a future possibility for MIT, one of the world's leading technological institutions? So far, the movement to re-instate Freshman English has only surfaced with some positive response to a question on a Student Committee on Educational Policy (SCEP) poll, but hopefully support for the idea will soon grow.

Although freshman humanities courses were once a mainstay of the MIT curriculum, you have to look back to 1964 to find the last time Freshman English was required. The incoming class of '68 had to take 21.01 — The Greek Tradition, and 21.02 — The European Tradition, as well as the expected Chemistry, Physics, and Calculus. These courses' required reading included the *Odyssey* of Homer, Plato's *Republic*, and assorted works from the Middle Ages and Renaissance. In addition, sophomores had to choose one humanities course both terms from among only three selections.

That was the last core freshman humanities requirement and by 1965 the faculty in an attempt to "give the MIT undergraduate greater flexibility and responsibility in the design of his academic career" dropped the requirement. Freshman humanities offerings remained relatively limited and students had to choose a two-term sequence from one of three themes. This move opened the elective dike; by 1968 the number of sequence themes to choose from increased to five. By 1973 there were twelve, representing practically all humanities disciplines.

Finally in 1973 the Humanities Department recommended a final change, deleting any freshman or sophomore required electives. The deans reasoned: "This generation of students will not readily accept the

something else

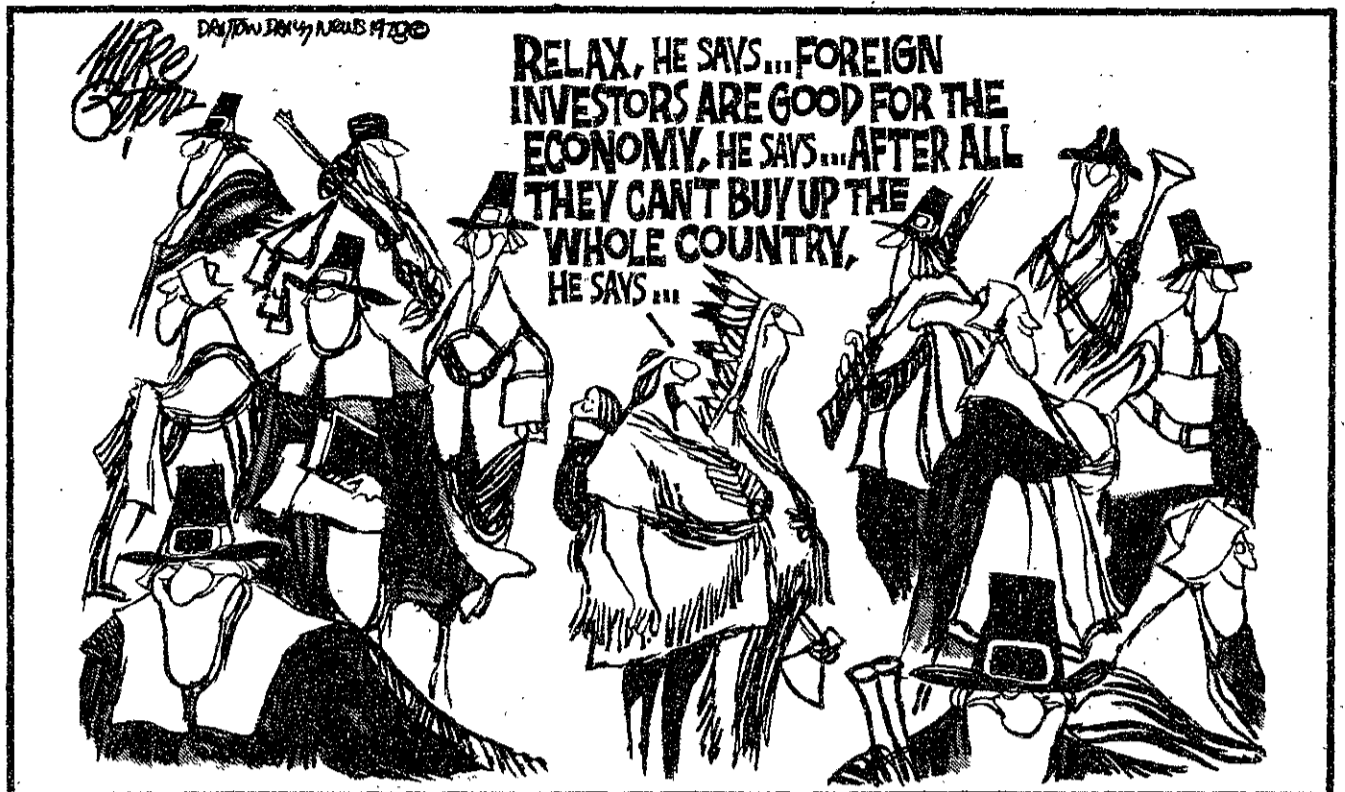
authoritarianism implicit in a narrowly restricted choice of humanities and social science subjects." Thus the present system requiring eight humanities subjects with additional Distribution and Concentration subjects in upperclass years was instituted.

A new two-term Freshman English requirement would prove to be a great psychological boost to the Humanities Department, whose morale right now may be at an all-time low. Greek philosophy and Dante's *Divine Comedy* can not be taught in large lecture classes, and at least twenty-five new discussion type sections would be needed. This would require more work of present Humanities instructors, as well as expansion of the staff. Also, a freshman core subject would put Humanities on a par with Calculus and Physics right from the start, and the new emphasis would even propel Humanities past the Chemistry and Biology departments, which only require one semester of study between them.

There are a number of reasons adoption of mandatory Freshman English requirement might not be desirable or immediately effected, however, despite the advantages. First, there is a distinct possibility that the passing of a new requirement for Humanities might lead to even more Institute core subjects. One could very easily expect certain electrical engineering professors to push for a non-elective option in computer programming, or even in Introductory Network Theory.

Secondly, the Freshman English requirements have just entered the MIT educational policy-making process. First the SCEP poll must show a good-sized majority of students support the change, and next student leaders (probably not SCEP members) will have to push a proposal in front of the Committee on Educational Policy. If the change passes that body, the most grueling test of all remains, that of acquiring approval at a faculty meeting.

And what should the new Freshman English requirement, if passed, consist of? Hopefully not Plato and Aristotle, which are sometimes as hard to decipher as Calculus. Rather, a single term of short story writing, essays, and even poetry followed by a concise but representative survey of literature, drama, and modern thought. Maybe then the Institute could really claim, as it does in the MIT Bulletin, that it seeks to develop skill in accurately and effectively communicating facts and ideas, orally and in writing.



feedback 1981 ring selector resigns

To the Editor,

In this open letter to the MIT class of 1981, I would like to announce my resignation as a member of the 1981 ring committee.

In a 5 to 4 vote a new design was accepted, having the beaver chewing on a tree instead of holding twigs in his paws. The fact that the vote was so closely divided between two vehement factions seems to indicate a significant split. I submit this split exists in the class as well as in the committee. It follows logically then that if the greatest percentage of the class is to be pleased with the ring, a compromise should be worked out.

The only way to determine the proportion of split in the class was by soliciting class input. This was agreed upon by the committee. Unfortunately, almost all the committee members were too biased to objectively report the feelings of the class, and thus the majority in the committee had "the class" (as determined by the number of votes on the committee) on their side.

In frustration I invited the input of concerned sophomores at the design meeting. Upon the arrival of a number of members of our class, the meeting was abruptly closed in a questionable manner, and during the meeting itself, the expressed opinion of those who cared enough to come, call, or send petitions was ignored.

Can this committee then be considered objectively representative of the class opinion in the light of the final design meeting?

The members of the ring committee are not the only ones who will wear the '81 ring, and I feel the act of ignoring the opinion of concerned members of 1981 is a

good example of the "what they don't know, won't hurt them" politics prevalent among the members.

As an officer, answerable to the opinions of the the class, I cannot be a party to the flagrant disregard by some of the committee members of the opposing opinion.

It is unfortunate it has gone this far. I am not a quitter, and I feel I am betraying my class in stepping down from the committee. However, I feel it is my duty to make an objective survey of class opinion available to the remaining members of the committee. I can accomplish this only by leaving the committee... hopefully removing the bias caused by the frustration of being blocked at

every move by an unbending opposition.

The design can still be changed if the class wills it. It is not final until the company starts molds of the rings after we leave for Christmas vacation. Whichever way you feel, express your opinion... write letters, talk to people... if enough people are involved, they have to take note.

I can only hope that all of you in the class of 1981 will help me find the true class opinion, and if this differs from the decision of the committee, will help me press the members of the ring committee of 1981 back into the traces of representative government.

Jenny M. Ford
Secretary-Treasurer, Class of 1981
November 29, 1978

Sophomore shut out

To the Editor,

Last spring, President Lori Ullman promised to "open the ring committee to the entire class," yet she was prepared to allow adoption of a major ring design without consulting the sophomore class as a whole. The new idea would have the beaver gnawing on a tree trunk, rather than the traditional twigs. Were it not for a November 28 Lobby 7 poster (put up unofficially by committee member Jenny Ford), I would not have been aware of the controversy.

The poster mentioned that a meeting was to be held that evening to make a decision. On attending, I found that it was closed to class members and that my views could only be expressed before the committee members began their meeting. Of the concerned sophomores present, there was a consensus of approximately

15-1 in favor of the traditional design. Although Jenny Ford and Tom Chang were receptive to our views, Lori Ullman and other committee members had essentially made their decision. I do not feel that this meeting resembled entire class input. Surely, a formal poll should have been taken, or even one similar to the survey which decided the side panel design. Unfortunately, the committee eventually endorsed the new design.

This may seem a trivial issue, but I feel the present motif is much more attractive, and any symbolic significance of the new design should not be enough to override many years of tradition. The recent actions of the ring Committee seem to call for an assessment of its method in choosing the design for the 1981 Brass Rat.

Jason-Tillman '81

Bldg. 56 work wrecks havoc

To the Editor,
We, the victims!

On the 7th floor of Bldg 56 we are undergoing crisis disaster training at a very intensive rate. For two months our work has been disrupted and our brains... drilled through by workers coring 30cm of cement over our heads in almost every ceiling to prepare for an animal headquarters we don't need!! To cool the drills the workers pour water which eventually comes down on all our papers, books, experiment and worst of all, into the electric power boxes causing very damaging failures of refrigerators, freezers, centrifuges, elec-

trophoresis, etc. To avoid such damages the semi-responsible "authorities," furnished a supplementary power line. On this line we plugged in all our most important equipment and in particular the deep freezers (-70°C) containing biological fractions, cells, and bacterial cultures. The content of these freezers represents months and years of work, some of which is irreplaceable. Yesterday (November 27) at 8:15 a.m. one of the freezers started ringing its alarm — the supplemental power line had been shut off (possibly 20-30 hours before) by someone who had a bad turkey indigestion.

Someone reached the 8th floor, filled some rubber shoes with fresh cement and... turned off one switch of the power line. This switch provoked the loss of 6 years of work of a graduate student who is working almost day and night trying to finish his thesis and it destroyed the six months labor of a postdoctoral fellow who is getting results for a badly needed publication.

Whoever has done it, I hope will read this letter and will feel the shame for such a criminal, destructive prank.

Annamaria Torriani
Associate Professor of Biology
November 28, 1978

The Tech

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Volume 98, Number 57
Friday, December 1, 1978

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Third class postage paid at Boston, MA, Non-Profit Org. Permit No. 59720. The Tech is published twice a week during the academic year (except during MIT vacations), daily during September Orientation, and once during the last week of July. Please send all correspondence to: P.O. Box 29, MIT Branch, Cambridge, MA 02139. Offices at Room W20-483, 84 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge, MA. Telephone: (617) 253-1541. ISSN 0148-9607. Advertising, subscription, and typesetting rates available. ©1978 The Tech Printed by Charles River Publishing, Inc.

→ **feed-back**

New Yorker article not given credit

To the Editor:

In your article on computer fraud (Nov. 14) several 'major' scandals were reported. I find it more than coincidental that each of these was discussed in an article appearing in the *New Yorker* (mid-summer 1977). Short of obtaining permission from the *New Yorker* to use the material, the reporter should have at least mentioned his source. I feel such irresponsibility is the most important thing for any publication to avoid.

Philip Earnhardt '82

classified advertising

Read the Guardian: most widely read independent radical newsweekly in the US. Special trial offer: 6 weeks/\$1. (\$17/yr). Guardian, Dept. UMT, 33 W. 17th St., NY, NY 10011.

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Belmont Hill — unfurnished Colonial, excellent condition, quiet street, four bedrooms, 2½ baths, fireplace livingroom, diningroom, den, dishwasher/disposal, wall-to-wall rugs, 2-car garage, brick patio, screened porch, landscaped. \$875/month. Owner, 484-7168 or 722-7917.

Wanted: Responsible person to drive car from Cambridge to San Diego around Dec. 15. Call 661-0070.

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The Tech needs a good typist of work Monday and Thursday between 9 and 3 and other times (evenings and weekends included) as convenient. Pay is commensurate with experience, should type at least 60wpm. Must be willing to learn special computer keyboard, but you will be learning a marketable skill. Atmosphere is casual, it is a good part-time job for a student spouse (on campus).

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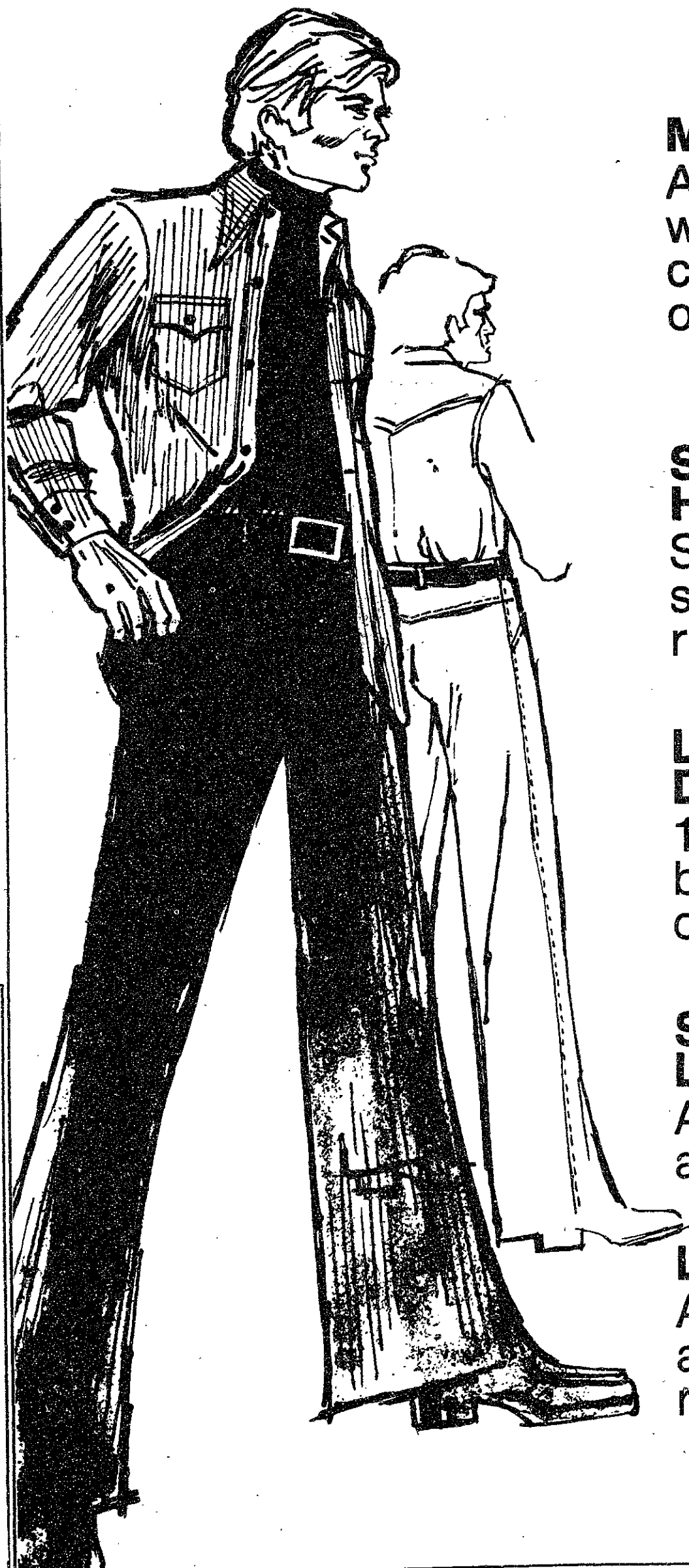
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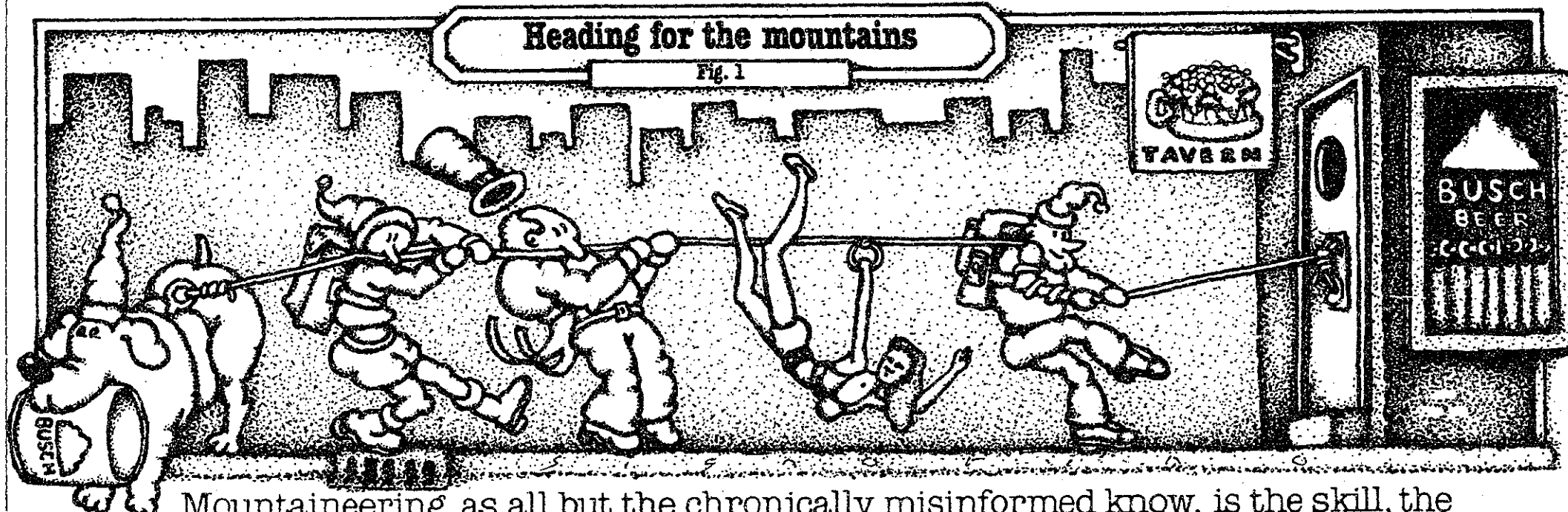
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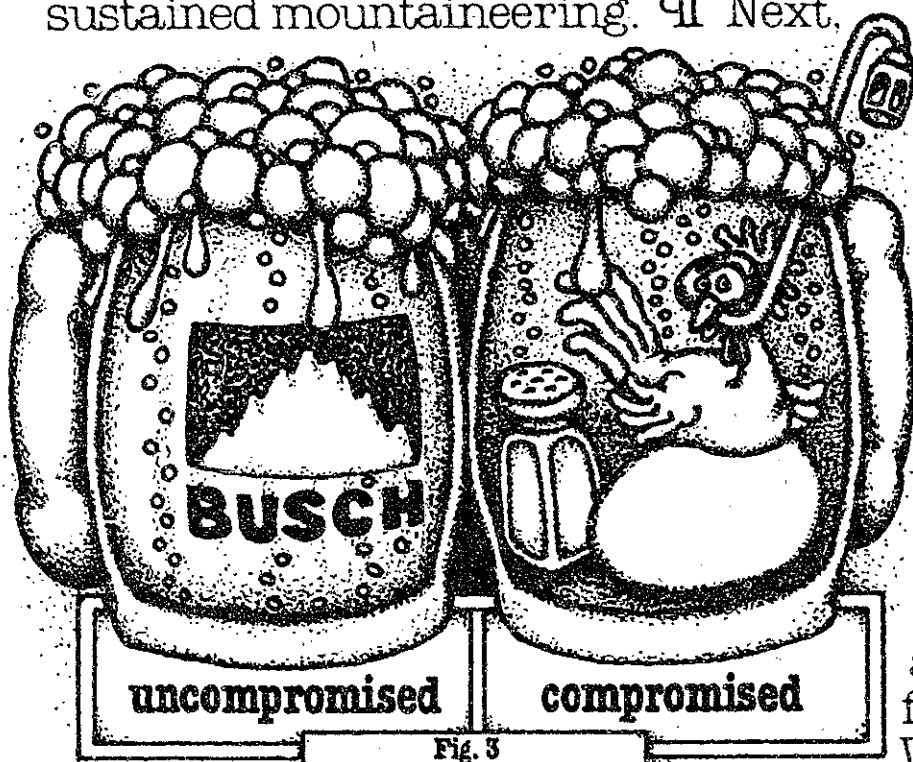
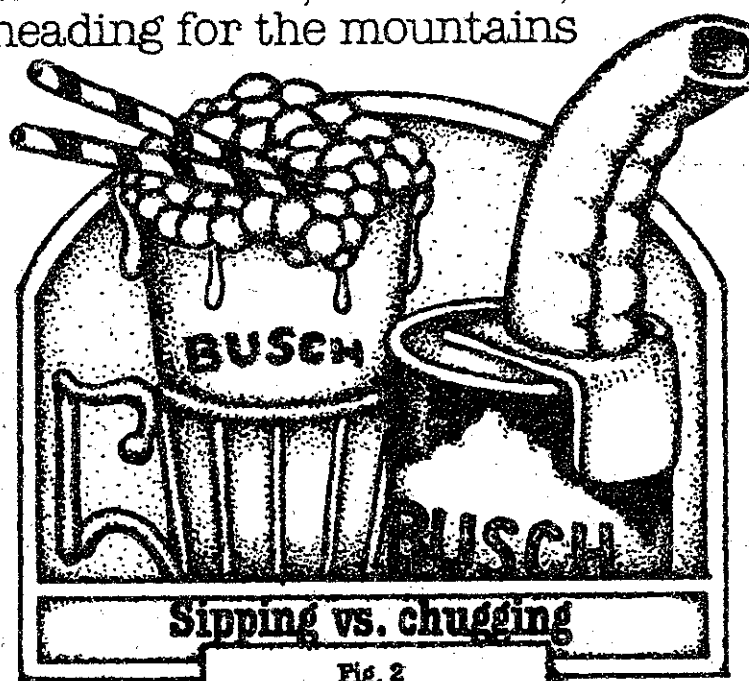
Mountaineering #3.

METHODOLOGY



Mountaineering, as all but the chronically misinformed know, is the skill, the science and the art of drinking Busch Beer. It begins by heading for the mountains (i.e., a quick jaunt to your favorite package emporium or wateringhole) and ends by downing the mountains (i.e., slow slaking swallows of the brew that is Busch).

¶ However, between those two points lies a vast area of personal peccadilloes sometimes called technique and sometimes called methodology (depending on your major). Hence, this ad. ¶ Sipping vs. chugging. Both have their merits, of course. But generally speaking, except for cases of extreme thirst or a leaking glass, sipping is the more prudent practice for serious, sustained mountaineering. ¶ Next,

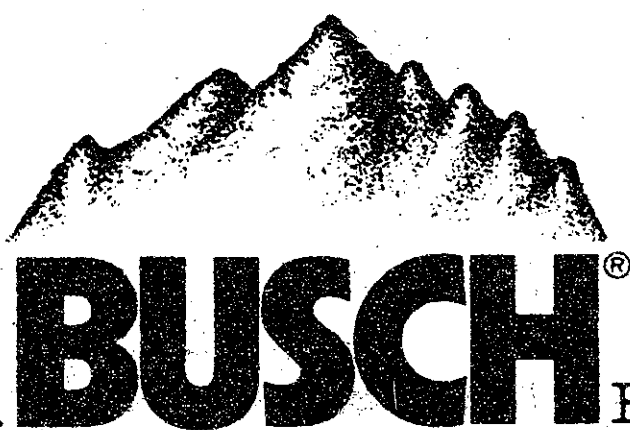


the proper position. Some swear by sitting; others by standing. Suffice it to say that the most successful mountaineers are flexible, so you'll find both sitters and standers.

(Except on New Year's Eve, when it's almost impossible to find a sitter.) ¶ Which brings us to additives. Occasionally a neophyte will sprinkle salt in his Busch; others mix in tomato juice; and a few on the radical fringe will even add egg. While these manipulations

can't be prohibited (this is, after all, a free country), they are frowned upon. Please be advised that purity is a virtue, and the natural refreshment of Busch is best uncompromised.

¶ Finally, there's the issue of containers. Good taste dictates a glass be used. But bad planning sometimes prevents that. If you find yourself forced to drink from the can, you should minimize this breach of etiquette. Be formal. Simply let your little finger stick out stiffly (see Fig. 4). Happy Mountaineering!



Don't just reach for a beer.

Head for the mountains.

BSO brings Bach, Brahms, and Berg(?)

By Joel West

Boston Symphony Orchestra, Seiji Ozawa, conductor; Itzhak Perlman, violin. Bach Violin Concerto in E, Berg Violin Concerto, Brahms Symphony No. 4. In concert last Tuesday.

The familiar theme of the opening *Allegro* of the E major concerto set the stage for what would prove a festive evening. The major fault of the Bach became apparent very early: the villain was the hall itself, whose superb acoustics can rarely be faulted. But the minuscule forces assembled (19 strings, harpsicord, and solo violin) had difficulty making themselves heard in the 2000-odd seat hall.

Both technically and musically, Perlman and the orchestra gave a sense of hearing, quite simply, the best. In the *Allegro*, the soloist gave the light, sensitive interpretation that the movement demands; his trills, of course, were *par excellence*. In the serene *Adagio*, Perlman's lyric violin was flawed by perhaps his only error of interpretation of the evening: too much vibrato, at least in relation to the style of the early 18th century.

The orchestra delivered a performance of comparable excellence throughout the Bach: in spite of the size of the hall, it was easy to imagine being transported back to an 18th century salon by the strains of the minuet-like final *Allegro assai*. The cellos and basses were particularly impressive with their ostinato bass throughout the second movement. Though it was obvious that the piece did not require a conductor, Ozawa acquitted himself well; the cadence of the first movement was especially crisp.

It would be hard to imagine a greater contrast than that between the Bach and 1935 Violin Concerto that was Berg's final work. Though the two-movement work

contains a Bach chorale (from *O Ewigkeit, du Donnerwort*) in the final movement, even there the twelve-tone row on which the piece is based bears little similarity to the baroque master.

The opening image presented by Perlman and the BSO was a delightful rendition of the programmatic first movement. In the opening passage, principals Edwin Barker (bass) and Harold Wright (clarinet) were given an opportunity by Berg's unusual orchestration to display their particular talents. In the second movement, Perlman again demonstrated his technical ability in the passage that alternates *arco* with left-handed *pizzicato*. In the final measures, Ozawa masterfully reduced the piece back to the simplicity with which it began; afterwards, he was uncharacteristically calm and tranquil, as if drained by some superhuman effort.

The best part of the evening, however, was reserved for the second half. Since Seiji Ozawa became Music Director five years ago, he has established himself and the orchestra as first-rate interpreters of the orchestral works of Brahms. Last season featured the *Symphony No. 3*; this season featured the *Piano Concerto No. 2*, and now the *Symphony No. 4*.

As usual, the strings performed at the level of excellence that one has come to expect from the BSO. It is hard to imagine a more exposed or difficult to execute passage than a pair of *pizzicato* string chords played by three-score string players; except for one such passage three-fourths the way through the first movement, the strings played the chords flawlessly each of the many times it was demanded of them.

Much of the credit belongs to Seiji Ozawa. The *pizzicato* passages, in the *ben marcato* string passages of the *Allegro*

Violin Concerto



giocoso, and after the dominant cadence mid-way through the *Allegro non troppo*, Ozawa handled difficult technical problems with the greatest ease.

But the Fourth was not merely a technical showpiece. Ozawa's interpreta-

tion of the work was superlative; each movement was shaped to its conclusion; there was a sense of a fine but perceptible thread linking the opening note to the final chords. Such is the craft of a great conductor.

happenings

AROUND MIT

MIT Dramashop auditions for its IAP production *A Dream Play* by August Strindberg, directed by Prof. Scanlan; Mon.-Wed., Dec. 4-6 at 7:30pm in Kresge Little Theatre. Sign-ups for technical crew also.

MIT Concert Band, 30th Anniversary Concert, Sat., Dec. 2 at 8:30pm in Kresge; free tickets in Lobby 10.

MIT Press Book Sale, Thurs.-Sat., Dec. 7-9, 10am-4pm in the Student Center; discounts up to 95%.

Strat's Rat, DJ music, dancing, inexpensive beer & wine, 8:30pm-1am in the Sala; free w/college ID.

MIT Early Music Ensemble, vocal & instrumental music of the Middle Ages and

Renaissance, Mon., Dec. 4 in 10-250 at 8pm; free.

AT THE MOVIES

Last Grave in Dimbaza, documentary of apartheid system in South Africa, Fri. & Sat., Dec. 1 & 2, 8 & 10pm in 66-110; sponsored by MIT Coalition against Apartheid and MIT BSU.

Grapes of Wrath, sponsored by Humanities Dept., Mon., Dec. 4, at 7pm in 66-110; free.

AT WELLESLEY

Rockinghorse band, rock, funk, jazz, old & new, Fri., Dec. 1, 8:30pm-12:30am.

Tasty Licks, bluegrass band, Sat., Dec. 2, 8:30pm-12:30am.

Nancy Tucker, folksinger, Sun., Dec. 3, 3:30-5:30pm in the Coffeehouse.

What would Socrates think of O'Keefe?

If you question long enough and deep enough, certain truths about O'Keefe become evident. It has a hearty, full-bodied flavor. It is smooth and easy going down. And, the quality of its head is fact rather than philosophical conjecture. We think there's one truth about O'Keefe that Socrates would not question: *It's too good to gulp.* As any rational man can taste.



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By Dennis Smith

The game demonstrated one of the team's greatest attributes: an intense desire to win. "Victories that are easy are cheap — those only are worth having which come as the result of hard fighting," reads an H.W. Beecher quote that is displayed boldly on the MIT locker room wall. And fight for it they did. After falling behind 10-4 in the early going, MIT came back to tie at 12-12. MIT led at 18-16, and did not fall behind again until late in the game. Both sides played rather sloppily, but the game was not without its notable efforts. Tom Berman '79 played aggressively at the guard position, and at one point drove inside, and having missed, got his own rebound and banked it in to put MIT ahead with thirteen minutes to go. Junior Geoff Holman's quick moves were good for twelve points and kept the Babson defense off balance. Keith Baker '82 came off the bench to hit four of five shots from the field in an impressive, inspired effort. Ray

The real action began with five minutes left, as Babson tipped in a missed free throw to go ahead for the first time since anyone could remember, 48-47. A crucial point arrived with two minutes to go when Babson, leading 50-49, stole the ball. Darryl Frase '80 fouled the breaking Babson player in desperation. However, with the pressure on, the Babson player missed both free throws and MIT recovered the ball. With 42 seconds on the clock and Babson leading 52-51, Captain John Wozniak '79 went up for a shot underneath the basket, made the shot, and was fouled in the process. Before Wozniak could go to the foul line to shoot, however, Babson called two time outs in succession in an attempt to put more pressure on Wozniak. He missed the free throw, but MIT's Bobby Clarke hauled down the rebound in an outstanding effort. MIT then worked the ball around to Wozniak again, who went up and was fouled again. This time he hit both free throws and the Engineers led 55-52 with 29 seconds to go. Babson immediately came downcourt and scored to come within one, and then fouled

The win was well earned; the team overcame inconsistent play and communication problems through desire, hustle, and aggressive defense, to come away victorious. The schedule is tough, but judging by the dedication of the team and enthusiasm of the home crowd, this could be a successful season.

The raw and windy day started for MIT with a game against the Montreal Irish. Tech began slow; at the half the score stood at Irish 16, MIT 0. Tech fought back hard during the second half, and the

Stutz scored twice, aided by MIT's quick passing. A maul at McGill's 30 yard line gave Bradley the opportunity to grab the ball and dive over the try line for a third score. A fourth goal was contributed by Kay Currier after Connie Copko G and Gardner brought the ball to McGill's two yard line. Three conversions by Bradley gave MIT six more points. MIT's season record stands at 5-3-1.

There will be a lunch meeting for all members of the MIT Football Club Sun., Dec. 3, at the MIT Boathouse. Anyone interested in playing football for MIT next year is invited to attend. Dinner and a slide show of this year's season will start at 1pm.

There will be a general meeting of the MITAA on Mon., Dec. 4, at 7pm in 4-149. Topics include discussion of the MIT Football Club and election of a new member-at-large. Please come and tell us what you think about MIT football. The meeting is open to everyone.

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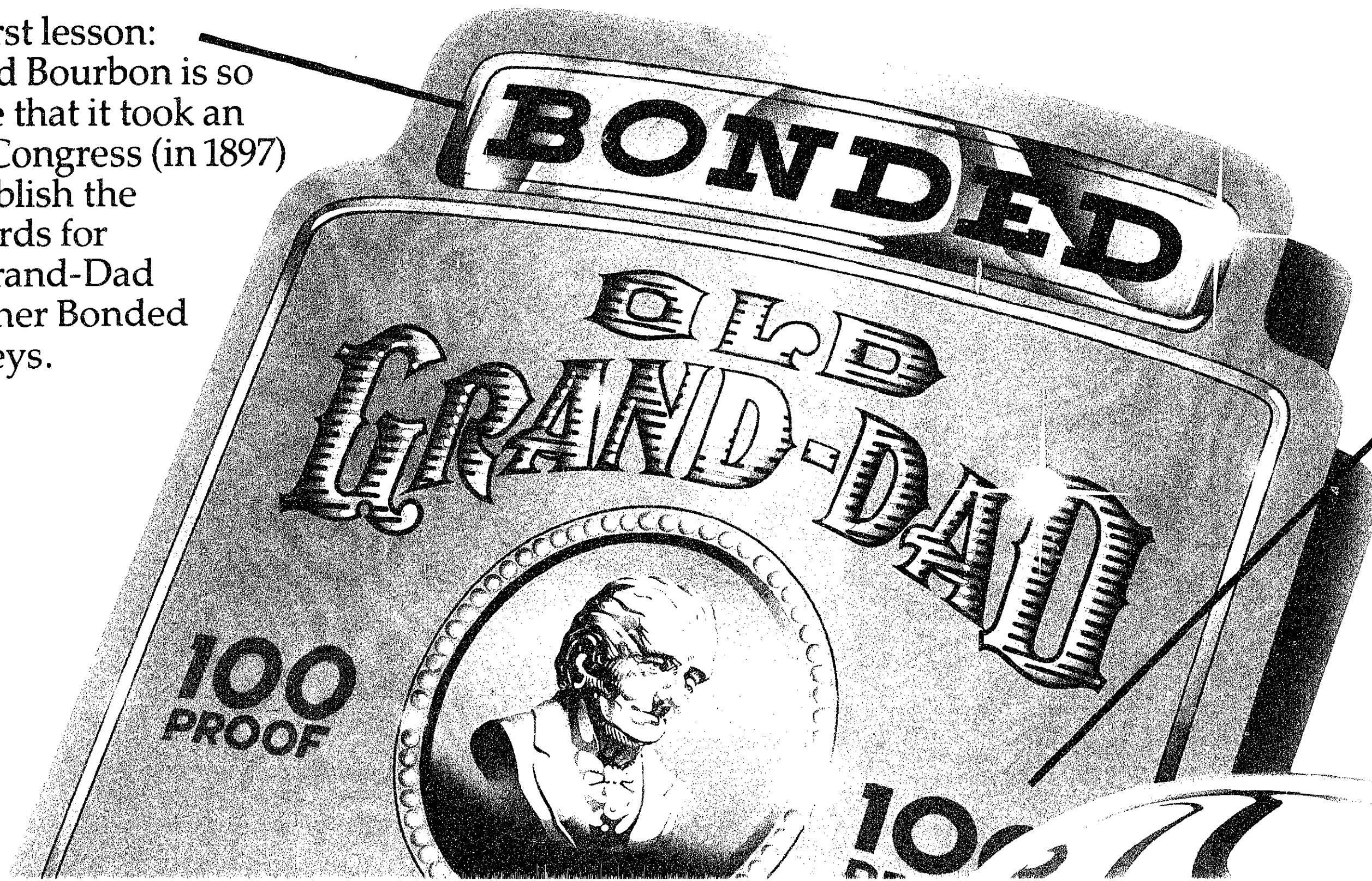
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